UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

9-5-47
No. 258

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD. - There is something about owning a piece of land that makes people feel secure. Many people dream of the day that they may find peace and quiet on a tract of land that they can call their own. To have is relatively simple but to hold is a complex problem. The prevention of loss of soil by wind and water erosion and the maintenance of soil fertilely requires broad knowledge.

Farmers may acquire this knowledge by participating in the Agricultural Conservation program.

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RESEARCH ON GRAIN STORAGE URGED BY COMMITTEE - Research to reduce or eliminate the loss of grain in storage should be given early attention under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, according to recommendations to the Department of Agriculture by the Grain Advisory Committee.

Suggestions of the committee include: (1) Design suitable structures both for farm storage and for country elevators; (2) improve or develop facilities for drying and conditioning grain and for the control of insect infestation and rodent damage; and (3) make economic studies to determine the costs and the returns the producer might expect from the installation of such facilities.

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FHA LOANS TO AID FARMERS - The Farmers Home Administration (successor to the Farm Security Administration) of the Department of Agriculture will be able to make about 130,000 farm operating and ownership loans during the current fiscal year to family-type farmers unable to obtain credit from any other source. Veterans will receive preference.

An additional number of farmers will be able to buy, enlarge, or improve farms with loans made by private lenders and insured by FHA.

Of particular interest to farmers and ranchers in arid or semi-arid areas of the 17 Western States are the loans which may be made to help obtain or develop adequate water supplies for farm operations. The $1.5 million funds appropriated for this program will assist more than 1,100 farmers.

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IMPROVED PASTURE MEANS IMPROVED SOIL - Pasture is one of the farmers' best soil conserving crops. And the better the pasture, the better it is as a soil-conserving crop. Whatever helps the pasture helps conserve the soil.

"Better pastures" to many farmers mean first to improve the pastures they have. That is why, particularly in the East and South, the establishment and improvement of pastures has such an important place in the Agricultural Conservation program. Improving pasture means renovation...working up the pasture thoroughly and adding the necessary fertilizers to it...getting legumes and sometimes grasses established as a part of the pasture...grazing when the pasture has good growth.

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MORE GRASSES AND LEGUMES NEEDED - Farmers who have been wondering if we might not produce too much pasture and too much hay because of the large plantings of legumes and grasses that are needed for conservation of the soil will be interested in the findings of the Feed Advisory Committee reported to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. After making a careful survey of the feed resources of this country, the committee said, "A 25-percent increase in the acreage of legume and grasses is necessary for a balanced agriculture."

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PROGRESS OF CORN CROP - How's the corn crop coming?

The mid-August condition report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that it will be 2 billion 437 million bushels, that is, about 223 million bushels less than the August 1 forecast.

There's another part that farmers are watching closely; Whether we are going to have a lot of soft corn. Crop reporters in the 12 most important producting States say that, on the average, 65 percent of the corn was in silk by August 15. Since it takes 51 days from silking to maturity this means that 65 percent of the corn will be safe if there is no frost before October 4.

The 51-day period between silking and maturity for adapted varieties has been established from the observations of Iowa scientists. The amount of moisture, soil fertility, temperature, and other factors do not change the period.

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MANY FARMERS INTERESTED IN WHEAT INSURANCE - In announcing the counties in which wheat insurance will be written in 1948, Director Gus Geissler said, "These 200 counties are really carrying on an experiment in wheat insurance for the Nation. In over 700 counties the wheat program has operated at a profit.. I realize there are thousands of farmers outside the 200 counties who would like to have crop insurance protection on their wheat. The agricultural committees of Congress indicated they would like to see Federal Crop insurance expanded as soon as the program appears to be entirely successful. It's now up to these 200 counties and the Corporation to protect and prove the worth of this program."

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USED KITCHEN FATS STILL NEEDED TO MAKE THINGS YOU WANT - Did you know that during the last five years you've helped turn in more than 600 million pounds of used kitchen fats? That's a job you women of America can be mighty proud of, for these

vitally needed raw materials went a long way toward making ammunition and other war essentials. But the job's not finished. We need consumer goods, automobiles, paints and such, just as badly now as we needed ammunition then. And, we're almost as short of fats and oils now as we were then. Sure, there's been some improvement in our supply, but did you know the latest official check shows that this year's supply will be one-sixth less than in pre-war years? On the basis of this continued shortage, American industry and the U. S. Department of Agriculture have intensified the fat salvage drive. Won't you continue to save used kitchen fats and sell them to your butchers as long as they're needed to make the things you want?

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

MEMORIES - How often have you heard a pioneer rancher say, "It doesn't rain now like it used to?" He recalls the time when the grass all over the country was so tall that it touched the saddle stirrups, and so thick that the horses' feet seldom touched the bare soil. Yes, his memory is correct about the grass but somewhat faulty about the rainfall. It is true that in the early days there were years of plentiful rainfall, but also, there were years of drouth.

Government records reveal that the rainfall during the period thirty to fifty years ago was substantially the same as any recent twenty-year period. The secret is that a certain amount of rainfall did more good in those days than now because the country was then comparatively new and the soil was protected by the plant residue which had accumulated over a period of many, many years. The natural vegetative cover existing in those days was sufficient to absorb the rainfall and prevent erosion.

Ranchers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program are making remarkable progress in restoring the natural vegetative cover of the land. This is being accomplished by development of well, springs, and earthen tanks for better livestock distribution, and adopting other range improvement practices which permit revegetation.

PMA OFFICIALS OUTLINE 1948 ACP - PMA officials from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico are meeting at Albuquerque September 11 and 12 to formulate the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1948 according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee. "The new program will be designed to provide financial assistance to more producers with a $500.00 limitation on the extent of help to any individual". Mr. Hemphill stated, "This limitation will

affect only about 10 percent of the participators".

A. D. Woofter of Magnalena, Marquez of Los Lunas and Leslie Martin are members of the State PMA attending the meeting.

SUBTERRANEAN HARVESTERS SAVE SEED -- Now there are machines to save more of the seeds of such legumes as white, alsike, red, Ladino, and subterranean clovers, and other legumes that are so important in conservation. Machines somewhat like giant vacuum sweepers have been designed to pick up the seed that shatters when the crop is dry. In Michigan the machine picked up from 25 to 55 pounds of Ladino clover seed to the acre...in Oregon the machine sucked up 150 to 250 pounds of subterranean clover to the acre--double the yield that was threshed out.

1948 POTATO GOAL FOR NEW MEXICO ANNOUNCED - Establishment of an Irish potato goal of 3700 acres for New Mexico has been announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The goal includes 2000 acres for commercial potato farms-and 1700 acres for farms producing less than 3 acres of potatoes which are not classified as commercial potato farms.

Goals for individual farms will be established by County Agricultural Conservation Committees. Planting within acreage goals will be one of the eligibility requirements for participation in the Department's 1948 price-support program for potatoes.

The national potato goal is 2,352,400 acres, slightly less than the 1947 goal of 2,517,000 but larger than the 2,238,700 acres actually planted this year. The 1948 goal should, under average conditions, produce approximately 375 million bushels, enough to fulfill anticipated requirements from the 1948 crop.

TWO METHODS USED IN SUPPORTING CEREAL PRICES - The Government is supporting the prices of wheat, barley, oats, flaxseed, dry beans and grain sorghums this year through purchase agreements or loans. A farmer chooses which of the two methods he wishes to use.

If the farmer chooses the purchase agreement, he pays a fee of $1.50 at the time he takes out the purchase agreement. Later, if he actually sells his grain to the Government, he may have to pay an additional fee. Under the purchase agreement, the farmer can sell all or part of his cereal crops to the Government during a designated 30-day period. The loans may mature at a set date, or they may mature earlier if the Commodity Credit Corporation finds it necessary to call the loans.

The loans are handled in the same way they have been in the past. The grain may be stored either on the farm or in a licensed warehouse.

There are some advantages in both plans. Under the purchase agreement, the farmer is assured of the support price for his grain and he retains control of his crop so that he can sell it at any time without going through any time-consuming procedure. Under the loan the farmer can get some money promptly...and he still retains some control over his crop so that, if its price increases, he can get the benefit. Full information about both methods can be obtained from the county agricultural conservation committees.

PHOSPHATE IMPROVES PALATABILITY - Phosphate did something to the bur clover on the Gianolini Dairy Farm in San Luis Obispe county, California. One day Mr. Gianolini had some superphosphate left over. So he drove across one of his hillside pastures and ran the fertilizer out. The cows grazed the fertilized area long after the clover was eaten close to the ground and was much shorter than the clover not fertilized.

U.S. FOOD EXPORTS AND BRITAIN - How Britain's suspension of food purchases from the United States, if long prolonged, would affect this country's food export picture is anybody's guess. Food shortages in many parts of the world could help to offset for some commodities the loss of the British market. Yet many countries, like Britain, are also experiencing economic distress and a "shortage of dollars."

Here is how the export picture stacked up during the last fiscal year ended July 1. Total U.S. exports of foods amounted to almost 18.5 million tons. Of this amount, the United Kingdom took about 9 percent or 1.7 million tons, consisting of 837,000 tons of wheat and flour, 125,000 tons of other grains, 17,000 tons of fats and oils, 50,000 tons of meat, 185,000 tons of dairy products, and 438,000 tons of other f oods.

Related to total U.S. exports of specific foods, these exports to the U.K. represented 8 percent of the wheat and flour, 3 percent of other grains, 7 percent of the fats and oils, 22 percent of the meat, 38 percent of the dairy products, and 18 percent of the other foods.

Britain has recently been put back on a wartime footing through measures which include cutting meat rations from about 24 to 20 cents' worth a week—slightly less than a pound of the cheapest cuts, reducing the size of restaurant meals, eliminating pleasure motoring.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ARE WE DOING RIGHT BY SUSIE? - Realizing that soil improvement and care are national problems, affecting the welfare of every man, woman and child and because of the importance of conservation from the public standpoint, the Congress of the United States has seen fit to provide Agricultural Conservation committeemen with funds to aid the farmers throughout the Nation to carry out the more difficult and expensive conservation practices of lasting benefit.

Susie Smith, who lives in a tenth story apartment in the heart of New York City, has a claim - like every other person in the Nation — on 2½ acres of America's cropland. It produces the food she eats each year, and a good share of the clothing she wears, and many other products which are important to her daily living. Susie sends out something like $2.17 a year — 69 cents an acre on her cropland and another 11 cents for each of her 4 acres of rangeland — to be invested in her plot of ground just for the purpose of making sure it keeps on producing her needs next year and the next, and the years after that. She pays in hard cash at the market and the grocery store for the food that is grown on her plot of ground; the $2.17 is her investment through the Agricultural Conservation Program to keep her 2½ acres of cropland and 4 acres of rangeland producing.

CORN PROSPECTS DECLINE - Hot, dry weather has shrunk the Nation's corn crop prospects to 2,403,913,000 bushels, a drop of 256 million bushels from the estimate a month ago. This would be the smallest crop since 1936, and 235 million bushels below the 1936-45 average.

It seems likely now that at least 75 percent of all corn in the Corn Belt

will have matured by the average date of the first killing frost. Should the first killing frost occur a week earlier than average, about 40 percent of all corn in the Corn Belt would still be immature. If frost comes a week later than average, however, only about 15 percent of the corn in the area would be subject to frost damage.

CROP OUTPUT LARGE DESPITE CORN PROSPECTS - Despite poor corn prospects, total production of all crops this year is expected to be near the average for the past 5 years, the best 5-year period in the Nation's history. The total is 21 percent more than the 1923-32 base, and only slightly below the record set last year.

Contributing to the large total volume are record crops of wheat, rice, pears, and grapes; relatively heavy outturns of flaxseed, soybeans, buckwheat, tobacco, peanuts, sugar beets, peaches, citrus, and truck crops; and above-average production of hay, oats, beans, peas, sugarcane, and apples.

Crops below average include barley, rye, and cotton -- which are well above 1946 production; and corn, sorghum grain, sweetpotatoes, and broomcorn -- which are less than in 1946. Feed-crop prospects are reported below average for the country as a whole, although varying by regions.

SCHOOL LUNCH FUNDS APPORTIONED - About 7 million children of America's 27½ million in elementary and high schools will benefit from the School Lunch Program this year.

Funds amounting to $48,750,000 have been apportioned among the States and territories to partially reimburse participating schools for their purchases of food for school lunches. The law requires that Federal funds be matched by

funds from sources within the States. Funds are apportioned among States according to the number of children of school age and the per capita income of the State.

The remaining money of the total $65 million appropriation by Congress, except for amounts for administrative expenses, is available to the Department of Agriculture for purchasing foods schools need to meet specific nutritional requirements.

The current school lunch program is about the same as last year's except that no funds are available this year for purchasing school lunch equipment.

COTTON CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE - A.U. S. cotton crop of 11,844,000 bales is forecast by the Department of Agriculture, based on information as of September 1. This would be about 3.2 million bales larger than last year's production, which was the smallest since 1921, but nearly 550,000 bales less than the 1936-45 average.

Abandonment of cotton in cultivation on July 1 is indicated at 1.2 percent, which would leave 21,143,000 acres for harvest. This would be around 3.5 million acres over last year. Lint yield per acre is computed at 269.0 pounds, 33.7 pounds more than last year's yield and 18.4 pounds above average.

The Bureau of the Census reports 647,391 bales of cotton ginned from the 1947 crop ginned before September 1. This compares with 532,664 bales for 1946 and 461,896 bales for 1945.

DROUGHT REDUCES EUROPE'S LATE CROPS - Late crops have deteriorated considerably in Europe because of extremely high temperatures during late July and August and little or no rainfall throughout western and central areas. This drought followed subnormal rainfall in earlier months, according to the foreign

relations office of the Department of Agriculture.

Production prospects are lowered for potatoes, sugarbeets, pulses (legumes yielding edible seeds, as peas, beans, etc.), and fodder crops, Pastures are brown and dry, and the second growth of meadows, which is used for hay or silage, is a complete failure in many localities. The feed shortage is resulting in increased slaughter of livestock, and milk production has been sharply reduced.

Areas most seriously affected are southern Norway, Denmark, southern Netherlands, Belgium, France, southern Germany, parts of Switzerland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. Other parts of western Europe, including the United Kingdom, report less than normal rainfall in August and expect below-average yields of late crops.

Immediate rains would stop further deterioration, but a shortage of domestic feed supplies during the coming year cannot be avoided. Significant amounts of feed cannot be imported by the countries during the coming winter because of the short U.S. corn crop and the general world shortage of feed grains. So the resulting feed shortages may force high liquidation of livestock, with resulting meat shortages this winter and spring. Because of the present high level of slaughter, meat rations have been temporarily increased or discontinued in some countries.

Many countries in western Europe have collection schemes to collect both breadgrains and oats and barley for use as food during the coming winter.

RESEARCH ACT WORK WILL SEEK NEW FARM-PRODUCT OUTLETS - Work which may be particularly significant when the supply of U.S. farm products becomes much larger in relation to demand is action taken under the Research and Marketing

Act to seek new foreign outlets for U.S. farm products.

As part of an over-all program to expand markets for U.S. agricultural products commodity specialists will be assigned to work in this country and abroad to stimulate foreign demand for certain products usually produced in this country in excess of normal domestic needs.

Men assigned to the work will represent our Government in contacting foreign government agencies, exporters, importers, and consumer groups abroad, and will also deal with foreign purchasing agents in the United States.

In this country, they will provide our producers and shippers with first-hand information about marketing developments in Western Europe, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere abroad, and to learn what types of information and activity are most urgently needed to expand foreign outlets for our farm products.

GRAIN SHIPMENTS WILL NOT MATCH LAST YEAR'S - This Government intends to do its utmost to ship grain where it is needed, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson recently stated, but it is now evident that we cannot ship as much grain this year as we did last year.

Although the wheat crop set a new record, the total U.S. grain supply this year will be reduced by more than last year's grain exports of over 563 million bushels.

"We take deep satisfaction in the effect of the food we have sent and are still sending," the Secretary said. "In terms of human life, the meaning of our food shipments is beyond measure....

"We have made our record shipments in spite of many problems and with calculated risk. We have had to worry about the transportation shortage, We had to make new international arrangements to finance the shipments.

"And we have had to be careful to prevent undue disruption of our own economy--not only in self-protection but also for the sake of the world economy, because world recovery is inseparably linked with a healthy state of economic affairs in the United States.

"While industry has been reconverting to peacetime conditions, agriculture has been forced by world events to postpone that shift in order to meet the food emergencies. In fact, agriculture's production pattern is perhaps even farther from peacetime requirements than it was at the end of the war.

"It is not too soon to lay plans to convert our farm plant to a peacetime basis...But little can be done to establish a peacetime pattern as long as the world food emergency continues."

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

USED FATS
NEEDED NOW - New Mexico homemakers were again reminded today of the serious shortage of industrial fats and oils when Mr. C. V. Hemphill, State Committee Chairman, U. S. Department of Agriculture's Production and Marketing Administration, urged intensified cooperation in saving and turning in used kitchen fats.

Production of fats and oils for the year will be one-sixth less than during pre-war years, he said, explaining the only remaining source for making up the deficit is used fats saved in the kitchen.

"This enormous deficit is slowing down production of countless consumer items we wear and use every day. Some homemakers have the mistaken impression used kitchen fats are not as vitally needed as they were previously. The fact is we need this material for our home industry now and we need it mighty badly. I feel confident the women of New Mexico will re-double their efforts and set an unprecedented record," he said.

Hemphill was confident that retail grocers and collectors of used fat would continue to cooperate in the government-industry program. During the past five years more than 600 million pounds of household fats have been recovered.

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2,4-D SAVES CORN
ON RIVER BOTTOMS - Many farmers have used 2,4-D to carry out the ACP practice for control of perennial weeds such as white top, wild morning glory, and other broad-leaved plants. Corn farmers have seen how the 2,4-D worked. Last spring when those farmers along some of the flooded river bottoms saw the weeds get ahead of their corn and when the ground was still too wet to cultivate with machinery, they realized that they had to find some other way to kill the weeds

or they would lose their corn crop. They tried 2,4-D. The apparatus they used applied the 2,4-D in a concentrated form...5 to 10 gallons covered the weeds on an acre. It did the work...it killed the weeds but left the corn plants practically unharmed. This method is credited with having saved over 40 thousand acres of corn.

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DO YOU BELIEVE IN SIGNS?

1. Soil erosion has affected in some degree more than 1,000,000 acres of land in America. This is more than one-half of the Nation's land.

2. Approximately 50,000,000 acres of once productive cropland have been already ruined for any further immediate cultivation; another 50,000,000 acres are in a condition almost as bad; and half to all the fertile top soil has been removed from another 100,000,000 acres.

3. Of the present American cropland of 415,000,000 acres, only about 342,000,000 acres can be classed as really good land. Of the 342,000,000 acres of good land, only about 62,000,000 acres are non-erodible, and the other 280,000,000 acres of good land is losing soil with every hard rain.

4. Three billion tons of top soil go down the streams and rivers every year.

5. Annual loss of soil minerals by erosion is twenty times the amount of soil minerals annually used by plant life.

6. We are annually mining out five times the soil minerals that we annually put back into the soil.

7. Erosion alone is costing the Nation approximately $3,844,000,000 annually.

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